

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 05285 241036Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3215  
INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS RABAT 5285

USIA FOR INA, IOR, IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN - MO  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - MOROCCAN PRESS AND U.S. MID-EAST POLICY

1. SUMMARY. DAYAN AND FAHMY VISITS, YOUNG STATEMENT ON PLO REPRESENTATION, SOUTHERN LEBANON SITUATION, CARTER READERS' DIGEST INTERVIEW ALL RECEIVE FRONTPAGE TREATMENT IN LOCAL PRESS. AFTER INITIAL EUPHORIA, OPPOSITION COMMENT ON U.S. APPROACH TO PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION NOW SHOWS CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM. END SUMMARY.

2. AFP REPORT OF REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG ON THE NECESSITY OF EVENTUAL INCLUSION OF PLO IN MID-EAST PEACE NEGOCIATIONS CAUSED FLURRY IN BOTH SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION PRESS HERE. IN FACT, LE MATIN OF SEPT. 20 PRINTED ITEM TWICE, ON PAGE ONE ATTRIBUTED TO AFP AND ON PAGE FIVE ATTRIBUTED TO NATIONAL NEWS SERVICE MAP, UNDER HEADLINE "THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE CLARIFIED - NO MID-EAST PEACE WITHOUT THE PLO," OTHER NEWS ITEMS RECEIVING FRONTPAGE TREATMENT INCLUDED THE EVIDENT DIVERGENCES BETWEEN THE ISRAELI AND U.S. POSITIONS FOLLOWING THE DAYAN VISIT, EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S URGING U.S. TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO, AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVIEW WITH READERS' DIGEST, WHICH REITERATED THE ADMINISTRATION'S  
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COMMITMENT TO A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.

3. BY WEEK'S END, CERTAIN SKEPTICISM OVER THE U.S. POSITION HAD APPEARED IN OPPOSITION PRESS. ISTIQLAL'S L'OPINION, IN ITS WEEKLY "PALESTINE" PAGE - PREPARED, WE UNDERSTAND, BY PLO OFFICE IN PARIS BUT WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH L'OPINION'S PRO-PALESTINIAN VIEWS - SEPT. 21 DEVOTED HALF ITS SPACE TO "STUDY" OF

CARTER'S PALESTINIAN POLICY. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT FACT THE HE ACKNOWLEDGES EXISTENCE OF PALESTINIANS AT ALL IS MAJOR STEP FORWARD, ARTICLE FINDS THE POLICY "AMBIGUOUS" ON THE ISSUES OF "HOMELAND," FRONTIERS AND WHO REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIANS, "INADEQUATE" AS REGARDS COMPENSATION OF REFUGEES. FURTHER, STUDY CLAIMS, AMERICAN OBSTINACY OVER PRESERVING ORIGINAL WORDING OF RESOLUTION 242 CONSTITUTES "A PROVOCATION" TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. L'OPINION OF SEPT. 23, IN FRONT PAGE COMMENT BY STAFF WRITER ABDALLAH MEMMES, TAKES UP SAME THEMES, AND ADDITIONALLY POINTS OUT THAT BOTH THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S REMARKS ON REPRESENTATION CONTAIN RESERVATIONS AS TO THE PLO'S RIGHT TO EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION. THE CLEAR U.S. AIM, ACCORDING TO MEMMES, IS TO SHATTER PALESTINIAN UNITY AND BRING TO GENEVA A GROUP OF TAME, CONSERVATIVE WEST BANK ARABS. NOTHING HAS CHANGED, HE CONCLUDES, EXCEPT THE TERMINOLOGY.

4. FROM LEFT OPPOSITION, USFP'S MUHARRIR, FURTHER PESSIMISTIC REMARKS ACCUSING ISRAEL OF BLATANT INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON WHILE U.S. TEMPORIZES, WHICH CAN ONLY LEAD TO A NEW ROUND OF WARFARE. MUHARRIR QUOTES FAHMY THAT "IF THE USA CANNOT CONVINCE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION AND TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY, THERE IS NO USE GOING TO GENEVA." ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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